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Geospatial information for sustainable development

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which will be available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the progress of the Working Group in its efforts to provide support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/109, in which it welcomed the creation of the Working Group on Geospatial Information under the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Committee supported the terms of reference and composition of the Working Group, which includes members from all five of the Committee's regional committees. Recognizing the fact that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data is key to the development of a number of the global indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee agreed to focus all its supporting activities related to sustainable development through the Working Group. In order to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial community is maintained and remains rigorous, the Committee requested that the Working Group provide annual status reports on its progress to the Committee.

In its report, the Working Group provides information on its activities to adequately and systematically address the issues of geographic location and alternative data sources and methodologies, including geospatial information and Earth observations, in the context of the global indicator framework. The Working

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Group concluded that geospatial information is able to provide enabling methodologies and processes for the disaggregation of data. It observed that the disaggregation of national statistical data is considerably strengthened through the lens of geospatial information. The report includes the main outcomes of the second and third meetings of the Working Group, held in Mexico City in December 2016 and in Kunming, China, in May 2017, respectively.